

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00958 112049Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /058 W

-----092585 121259Z /41

R 111100Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5647

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMSIXTHFLT

USNA ANNAPOLIS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 0958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, US, GR, LY

SUBJECT: U.S. MIDSHIPMEN FOREIGN EXCHANGE CRUISE '78

REF: STATE 162447 (NOTAL) (262250Z JUN 78)

THE GREEK DESTROYERS PANTHIR AND IERAX VISITED TRIPOLI, SURELY ONE OF THE WORLD'S DULLEST LIBERTY PORTS, AS PART OF A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE JULY 8-10 WITH 190 CADETS ON BOARD, INCLUDING FOUR U.S. MIDSHIPMEN (AND FIVE LIBYANS). LIBYANS ARRANGED A MODEST SCHEDULE OF SHORE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A VISIT TO A DAIRY FARM, AND LARGE NUMBER OF LIBYAN NAVAL OFFICERS (MANY OF WHOM ARE GREEK-TRAINED) ATTENDED A SHIPBOARD RECEPTION JULY 8. GREEK EMBASSY INFORMED US THEY WERE SURPRISED BY THE ASSISTANCE ACCORDED BY THE LIBYAN NAVY FOR THIS VISIT. PORT CLEARANCE FOR THE VISIT WAS GRANTED WITH MINIMUM OF RED TAPE AND LIBYANS SPECIFIED THAT CADETS WEAR UNIFORMS ASHORE (TO THE CONSTERNATION OF THE ITALIANS WHO HAVE HAD TROUBLE ON BOTH COUNTS IN ARRANGING FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00958 112049Z

THEIR PROJECTED NAVAL VISIT HERE). GREEK EMBASSY WAS MILDLY SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM US THAT U.S. MIDSHIPMEN WERE ABOARD THE DESTROYERS, HAVING APPARENTLY BEEN INFORMED ALL CADETS WERE FROM "THIRD WORLD" COUNTRIES. THE FOUR MIDSHIPMEN ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE CHARGE'S RESIDENCE JULY 9 FOR DRINKS AND A CHAT WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHERE THEY WERE INFORMED THAT THEIR

VISIT WAS SOMEWHAT NOTEWORTHY SINCE THEY WERE PROBABLY
THE FIRST UNIFORMED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO VISIT
TRIPOLI SINCE 1970. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER LIBYAN
GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THEIR PRESENCE.
KARLE

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NNN

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